has been the main reason for high seasonal rise in the price of vegetables, fruits, edible oils and, some pulses. The Budget could not have influenced the shortfall in the production of potatoes and onions as also other fruits and vegetables.

(c) A number of policy instruments are put into effect by the Government to bring about moderation in the growth of prices. Fiscal prudence check in money supply growth and supply side management of wage goods are the principal instruments operated by the Government to control inflationary pressures. Government has reduced duty on import of edible oil from 25% to 15% to facilitate large volume of import to support demostic availability. Government of the NCT of Delhi has prepared a scheme to supply onions and potatoes through the retail outlets of the DSCSC, Super Bazar, NCCF, Kendriya Bhandar and Mother dairy.

History of Ministry of Finance

3782. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to prepare an official history of the Ministry of Finance in the post-independence period; and

(b) if not, whether Government would consider a group of distinguished persons and experts to examine the merits of writing such a history?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to prepare an official history of the Ministry of Finance nor is it considered necessary as the relevant informaltion is available in the Annual Reports, which are also laid on the Table of the House every year.

Proposal for external aid for Tripura

3783. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received proposals for external aid from Government of Tripura;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government on these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) The details of proposals received from the Government of Tripura which are under consideration are as follows:

(i) Tripura School Education Project with an estimated project cost of Rs. 50 crore.

(ii) Strengthening and Upgrading of Roads in Tripura with an estimated project cost of Rs. 250 crore.

(c) Both the proposals have been posed to the donors for funding.

Besides, Tripura State Pollution Control Board had also submitted a proposal in March, 1998 for assistance under OECF 1998-99 loan package. As the proposal was received after the posing of the long list of proposals, Government of Tripura were advised to send the proposal for consideration under OECF 1999-2000 loan package.

Shortfall in collection of Central Taxes in Tripura

3784. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during 1997-98 there has been considerable shortfall in Central taxes collected in Tripura, due to which State's share for Central Taxes has come down;

(b) if so, whether devolution by way of State's share of all Central taxes have been much lower than what recom-